

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 645 (Carrillo)

As Amended July 17, 2025

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

*As it left the Assembly, this bill required the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to develop, and, after approval by the Emergency Medical Services Commission (Commission), to adopt minimum standards for emergency medical dispatcher (EMD) training. Requires a public safety dispatcher or telecommunicator, as defined, to complete that training.*

**Senate Amendments**

Require, by January 1, 2027, a public safety agency that provides 911 call processing for services for emergency medical response to provide pre-arrival medical instructions to 911 callers requiring medical assistance, including, among other things, airway and choking medical instructions and administration of naloxone for narcotics overdoses. Requires pre-arrival medical instructions to be approved by the local emergency medical services agency medical director.

**COMMENTS**

*Emergency medical services (EMS).* While EMSA is the lead agency and centralized resource to oversee emergency and disaster medical services, day-to-day EMS system management is the responsibility of the local EMS agencies (LEMSAs). California has 33 LEMSA systems that provide EMS for California's 58 counties. Regional systems are usually comprised of small, more rural, less-populated counties and single-county systems generally exist in the larger and more urban counties. There are seven regional EMS agencies comprised of 32 counties and 26 single-county local EMS agencies.

The EMS Act comprehensively regulates emergency medical care in California. Enacted in 1980, the Act provides for the creation of emergency medical procedures and protocols, certification of emergency medical personnel, and coordination of emergency responses by fire departments, ambulance services, hospitals, specialty care centers, and other providers within the local EMS system.

*911.* The Warren 911 Act authorizes cities and counties to form contracts regulating the implementation of a 911 system. The basic structure of the 911 system is designed to ensure that when a person dials 911, a law enforcement agency serving as a primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) receives 911 requests from the area where the person is calling. If a 911 caller requests emergency medical assistance, the primary PSAP may retain the caller if it directly provides EMS dispatch, or may transfer the caller to a secondary PSAP for emergency medical response. The medical secondary PSAP can be a public agency, public/private partnership, or private EMS provider designated or recognized by the LEMSA as serving the entire EMS area or portion of the EMS area.

*Dispatch.* There are approximately/over 6,000 911 dispatchers in California. In more urban areas, 911 dispatcher services are usually divided, with police departments having their own dispatch center, and fire and EMS departments having another. In more rural areas with dispersed populations, emergency dispatch services tend to be unified under a centralized public communication center.

**According to the Author**

Public safety dispatchers play a critical role in emergency response, yet there is no statewide requirement ensuring they are equipped with the training necessary to provide life-saving guidance during medical emergencies. The author states that this bill addresses this gap by ensuring they can deliver effective pre-arrival instructions and allocate appropriate resources. In emergencies like cardiac arrest or choking—especially in rural areas where response times are longer—trained dispatchers can make the difference between life and death. According to the American Heart Association, immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can double or triple survival rates. The author notes that EMD protocols also improve dispatchers' ability to assess medical situations accurately, ensuring resources are deployed efficiently. The author concludes that this bill improves emergency response, and reduces strain on EMS.

**Arguments in Support**

California Ambulance Association (CAA) is the sponsor of this bill and states that it seeks to enhance emergency response effectiveness by ensuring that dispatchers have the skills and resources needed to provide life-saving pre-arrival instructions and dispatch appropriate emergency personnel. CAA notes that, in life-threatening situations such as cardiac arrest or choking, immediate intervention is crucial. CAA states that according to the American Heart Association, only 46% of individuals experiencing cardiac arrest receive bystander CPR before emergency responders arrive, significantly reducing their chances of survival. CAA contends that EMD training provides dispatchers with structured protocols to give life-saving pre-arrival instructions.

**Arguments in Opposition**

*None.*

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

*According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, EMSA anticipates no fiscal impact to state operations.*

*Unknown potential costs to local public safety agencies. Cost to local agencies would be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.*

**VOTES:****ASM HEALTH: 13-0-3**

**YES:** Bonta, Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Rogers, Carrillo, Flora, Mark González, Krell, Patel, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo, Sharp-Collins, Stefani

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Chen, Patterson, Sanchez

**ASM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 6-0-1**

**YES:** Ransom, Arambula, Bains, Bennett, Calderon, DeMaio

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Hadwick

**ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0**

**YES:** Wicks, Sanchez, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0-9**

**YES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Castillo, Dixon, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Lackey, Macedo, Papan, Sanchez

**SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1**

**YES:** Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Reyes

**UPDATED**

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